



# COLLEGE REPORT

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The value of historical knowledge has always been a matter of contention among men. Some agree with Hegel that people never learn anything from history, some with Carl Sandburg that the past is "a bucket of ashes," and some with Henry Ford that "history is bunk."

Personally, I have little interest in history per se. I am no trained historian, and I question for my own purposes the study of history merely for the sake of history, for this type of activity often results in an inability to act in the present. I do agree strongly with a statement of Thomas H. Huxley's:

"The great end of life is not knowledge but action. What men need is as much knowledge as they can assimilate and organize into a basis for action; give them more and it may become injurious. One knows people who are as heavy with knowledge as others are from over-fulness of meat and drink."

AS A STUDENT of higher education I am concerned with problems of the here and hereafter, and I hold that historical knowledge constitutes an essential tool for understanding both. The practical problems of today come out of the past, and those ignorant of their roots struggle with them half armed. They bring to mind the aphorisms of Lord Acton and Santayana: "History compels us to fasten on abiding issues, and rescues us from the temporary and transient;" "Those

## Hospital's Excellence Recognized

Harbor General Hospital has been cited for the excellence of its patient relations program by the national hospital newsletter, "PULSE on Patient Relations."

The hospital has been accepted for consideration for national honors in the 1968 PULSE Patient Relations Awards Program. The program is designed to honor those hospitals which are making a significant contribution to improved patient comfort and morals.

Twelve hospitals will receive awards in the sixth annual competition.

## McCarthy Theme Is 'Concern'

Mary McCarthy, 18-year-old daughter of presidential candidate Senator Eugene McCarthy, told an audience of 250 persons at El Camino College Monday night that the theme of her father's campaign was concern for the quality of American life.

"When my father decided last year to get into the primaries he was taking desperate steps to show up serious governmental errors, and," she admitted, "even I was not sure he could do it." Now, she said, she is satisfied that "the whole world is happy about the way things are moving."

Before Miss McCarthy spoke, movies of incidents in the New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Ohio campaigns were shown with excerpts from talks by Senator McCarthy, Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, and other workers in those states.

## Contract Awarded For Markers

An apparent low bid of \$143,679 for the installation of raised pavement markers on 21.7 miles of the Harbor Freeway has been submitted by Pascal & Ludwig of Up-land, Calif.

Bids for the project, which involves the section between Pacific Coast Highway and the Golden State Freeway, were opened Thursday in Los Angeles.

Consider two educational thinkers and administrators of the country, but they make little progress. Why? The answer seems to me that the momentum of American education follows an opposing historical curve which they have inadequately assessed and which they do not have the power to deflect. Several years ago one of these educators wrote an article predicting that by the year 2000 American education will be entirely structured on the

6-4-4 Plan; but when I asked him how he justified his prediction in the light of the long and unsuccessful history of the effort, he replied, "Oh, yes; but we ought to have the 6-4-4 Plan." He predicted, in short, from his bones, not from the record of continuing failures.

arts colleges and to assign their freshmen and sophomore years to secondary schools and their junior and senior years to graduate and professional schools. At least a dozen unsuccessful campaigns have been fought under this strategy during the past hundred and ten years—at Michigan, Minnesota, Cornell, Columbia, Stanford, and by a committee of National Council of Education. The campaign to amputate

the freshman and sophomore years has involved five separate unsuccessful attempts at Stanford alone, the last one in 1939. The nation's colleges have never, however, accepted these invitations to commit suicide; and knowing these historical facts, one could predict that the attempted bisection of the undergraduate college of the University of Chicago in 1942 would fail too. In 1955 it did. In short, knowledge of the failures of the 6-4-4 and the bisection plan helps one see that unless revisionary programs generate enough power to alter the historical pattern, they will inevitably collapse. Historical knowledge, in other words, permits people to judge the direction and to gauge the momentum of the forces with which they lead.

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